

# CONGAREE SWAMP NATIONAL MONUMENT

## OLD-GROWTH BOTTOMLAND FOREST

### RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

*The Old Growth Bottomland Forest Research & Education Center will support floodplain forest research, the gathering and interpretation of research data, and the transmission of the resulting information to managers, students, and the public. To achieve the goals, the facility will include laboratory space, a natural history research collection, an indoor and a screened outdoor classroom, and temporary quarters for visiting scientists.*

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## Resources Program

The Old-Growth Bottomland Forest Research and Education Center's focus will be in concert with the element that makes Congaree Swamp rare - it is the largest intact tract of old-growth bottomland forest in North America. Ongoing and future research projects will be synthesized into a form understandable by a varied audience. Long and short term inventory and monitoring programs supported by this facility will include the effects of natural and anthropogenic changes on floodplain ecosystems, neotropical migratory bird behavior and population trends, feral hog monitoring, reptile and amphibian surveys, and fish community analysis. Future research and dissemination of this information to the park's staff and stakeholders is key to the wise management and sustainability of these forested ecosystems. The Center's role as a site for research and education is consistent with the park's status as an International Biosphere Reserve and Globally Important Bird Area.



## Facility Progress

Working with research partners, the park staff finished design plans for rehabilitation of the former Information Station/Headquarters. Park employees added a screened porch and relocated walls in the structure. Electrical, plumbing, and drywall work was accomplished by contractors.

After a lengthy delay, the security and fire suppression system installation is underway. The remaining interior finish work will be performed by the park staff. All building rehabilitation is projected to be completed by the end of June 2003.

A Learning Center Director/Education Specialist position will be advertised in the near future. The Center should be staffed and operational by the end of fy 2003.

